IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-66 (Canceled)

67. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte comprising the steps of:

introducing ion groups into copolymer composed of styrene and conjugate diene; and

crosslinking and/or polymerizing conjugate diene units in said copolymer so that said polyelectrolyte is refined into a water soluble polyelectrolyte.

68. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 67, wherein said ion group to be introduced is a material selected from a group consisting of sulfonic acid, its salt, chloromethylated amine salt, carboxylic acid, its, salt, $PO(OH)_2$, its salt, $CH_2PO(OH)_2$ and its salt.

69. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 67, wherein said ion groups are introduced by 20 mol% or more with respect to all monomer units.

70. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 67, wherein said copolymer contains the conjugate diene units by 0.05 mol% to 20 mol% with respect to all monomer units.

71. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 67, wherein said copolymer contains the conjugate diene units by 0.1 mol% to 10 mol% with respect all monomer units.

72. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 67, wherein said polyelectrolyte is refined in such a manner that the molecular weight Mw is made to be 600,000 or more.

73. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 72, wherein said polyelectrolyte is refined so as to be used as polymer coagulant for disposing waste water.

74. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte, comprising the step of introducing ion groups into copolymer of styrene and conjugate diene.

75. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 74, wherein at least one material selected from a group consisting of sulfonic acid, sulfate and chloromethylate amine salt is introduced as said ion group.

76. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 75, wherein a material containing conjugate diene units by 0.1 mol% to 20 mol% with respect to all of monomer units is employed as said copolymer.

77. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 75, wherein said ion groups are introduced by 20 mol% or more with respect to all of monomer units.

78. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 74, wherein at least a material selected from a group consisting of sulfonic acid, its salt, chloromethylated amine alt, carboxylic acid, its salt, $PO(OH)_2$, its salt, $CH_2PO(OH)_2$ and its salt is introduced as said ion groups in a state where inorganic pigment is allowed to exist in a reaction system.

79. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 78, wherein carbon black is allowed to exist as said inorganic pigment.

80. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 78, wherein the content of said inorganic pigment in said reaction system is 0.01 wt% to 20 wt% with respect to the copolymer components.

81. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 78, wherein a material containing conjugate diene units by 0.05% mol% to 60 mol% with respect to all of monomer units is employed as said copolymer.

82. (New) A method of manufacturing a polyelectrolyte according to Claim 78, wherein said ion groups are introduced by 20 mol% or more with respect to all of monomer units.